



Attorney Docket: Bookbinder 16-6-1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: Bookbinder et al.

Serial No: 09/447,077

Filing Date: 11/22/99

Title: METHODS FOR PROTECTING
SILICA-CONTAINING
ARTICLE AND INHIBITING
BREAKS DURING DRAWING
OF OPTICAL FIBER, AND
SILICA-CONTAINING
ARTICLE PROTECTED
AGAINST BREAK-INDUCING
PARTICULATES

Group Art Unit: 1762

Examiner: W. Markham

RESPONSE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

RESPONSE TO THE EXAMINER'S FINAL OFFICE ACTION

In reply to the Office Action dated September 26, 2002, designated as Paper No.12 in the above-captioned application, please enter the following amendments and Remarks as follows:

In the Claims

Please amend claims 1, 10-12, and 27-29 as follows:

(Twice Amended) 1. A method of protecting a silica-containing article used in the manufacture of an optical fiber, the method comprising the steps of:
C
providing a silica-containing article used in the manufacture of an optical fiber;
applying a protective organic layer to the silica-containing article;
removing, by cleaning, particulates from the protective layer; and
ablating by heating the protective layer during subsequent processing of the silica-containing article.

#18/C
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GROUP 1700